

# BORDER POLICIES TO MAINTAIN NATIONALISM: Study in Ketungau Hulu District, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan

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## ABSTRACT

This study, entitled "National Border Politics to Maintain Nationalism (A Study in Ketungau Hulu District, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan)," uses a qualitative approach. The focus of the research is directed at government efforts in implementing border politics and its impact on strengthening community nationalism in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation studies, then analyzed using data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing methods. The results indicate that border politics plays a crucial role not only in defense and security aspects, but also in infrastructure development, public services, and strengthening national identity. Communities in Ketungau Hulu District benefit from the construction of border crossing posts, road access, and socio-cultural activities that strengthen their sense of belonging to the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. However, challenges remain, such as limited facilities, economic disparities, and cross-border cultural influences that have the potential to weaken nationalism. In conclusion, border politics in Ketungau Hulu is a strategic instrument for maintaining nationalism, but it needs to be supported by consistent policies, equitable development, and active community participation to address the complexity of border issues sustainably.

**Keywords:** Border Politics, Nationalism, Ketungau Hulu.

## INTRODUCTION

National borders are strategic areas that serve not only as physical dividing lines but also as a manifestation of a nation's defense and sovereignty. Border areas play a crucial role in ensuring national integrity and serve as symbols of national identity. As Bangun (2017) points out, national border management must be viewed from multiple perspectives, including geographic, political, and social, to mitigate threats to national sovereignty. The complexity of border management encompasses numerous challenges, including interactions between countries, often influenced by differing values and interests (Iriansyah, 2021). Therefore, border management aims not only to secure territorial boundaries but also to address the social and economic dynamics along the border (Kartisari, 2010).

Effective management requires integrated policies encompassing security, economic, and social aspects to not only safeguard sovereignty but also support the stability and well-being of communities in border areas. From Marenin's perspective (2010), border management must encompass the various, often conflicting, interests of countries. This clash of interests between countries, as demonstrated by Kusumawardhana (2023), can be minimized through regular meetings between heads of state aimed at unifying policies that support stability without causing conflict.

In Indonesia, border politics plays a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening nationalism among the public. Borders are not merely dividing lines between countries but also serve as symbols of sovereignty that strengthen national identity. Darajati & Syafei (2022) explain that Indonesian government policies in border areas must encompass both security aspects and the economic and social development of local communities. This is crucial to avoid development gaps that could fuel dissatisfaction and undermine national pride. Furthermore, it is crucial to instill education and awareness about the vital role of borders in all levels of society (Itasari et al., 2020).

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The process of delimiting Indonesia's borders, particularly with Malaysia, is inextricably linked to the history of colonialism, with a series of bilateral agreements between the British and the Dutch establishing boundaries that remain in effect today (Rochmawati et al., 2022). These boundary delimitations were regulated through treaties such as the 1891 Convention/Treaty between Great Britain and the Netherlands Defining Boundaries in Borneo, which aimed to prevent disputes between the two colonial powers in Southeast Asia (Kusumawardhana et al., 2023). These treaties, followed by the delimitation of boundaries through the international legal principle of *Uti Possidetis Juris*, helped prevent border disputes often triggered by unclear boundaries (Black's Law).

Furthermore, Indonesia's border management policy has undergone significant transformation, with a focus on developing border areas as gateways to the nation's economy and defense. The issuance of Presidential Regulation Number 118 of 2022 is a strategic step to strengthen state sovereignty, improve the welfare of border communities, and reinforce the position of border areas as entry and exit points to the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (BNPP, 2022). Implementation of this policy involves strengthening infrastructure, such as State Border Crossing Posts (PLBN), and increasing the capacity of human resources in border areas, which are at the forefront of maintaining national stability. However, an evaluation of this policy reveals challenges in terms of mismatches between planning and implementation on the ground, which need to be addressed immediately (Liliweri, 2023).

Indonesia's border management requires clear and detailed policies to improve the welfare and quality of life of the people living in these areas. This policy is part of a political strategy aimed not only at regulating geographic boundaries but also at clarifying the differences between "us" and "them" in political, social, and cultural contexts (Migdal, 2004). Border regions, with all their diversity, allow for open interactions between communities, which can lead to misidentification of individuals or groups. This can influence the political orientation of the nation or nationalism of local communities, posing a challenge in border management. Therefore, border political management must be directed at strengthening collective understanding among individuals and groups by developing a more structured and focused mental map, reflected in policies that prioritize order in border areas (Migdal, 2004).

Furthermore, Indonesian border management also requires attention to relations with neighboring countries, such as Malaysia, which are a focus for security and cultural exchange. Strengthening these relationships is expected to reduce the potential for conflict and increase intercultural understanding (Bria & Lam, 2020). This approach reflects the importance of border management that addresses not only physical and security aspects, but also social, cultural, and economic aspects. Integrating these elements will strengthen a sustainable sense of nationhood in border communities, which in turn contributes to the sovereignty and integrity of the Indonesian nation as a whole. Thus, strategic and comprehensive border management can be a key pillar in maintaining the integrity of the Indonesian nation amidst the dynamics of international relations and internal challenges.

National borders play a highly strategic role in ensuring a country's sovereignty and integrity. More than just a geographical dividing line, borders also function as political spaces encompassing broader dimensions, including economic, social, and security aspects. In this regard, borders become focal points that determine not only relations between countries but also the identity and social sustainability of the region. Longo (2017) states that borders are instruments used to control the flow of people, goods, and information, which then influence international policy. Therefore, the management and supervision of border areas encompass various elements, involving not only the state but also local communities and increasingly sophisticated technology.

The political dimension of borders encompasses various interrelated aspects, including sovereignty and security. Borders serve as symbols of state power and are crucial instruments in upholding sovereignty. States have full authority to regulate their territories, both through physical control on the ground and through surveillance policies utilizing advanced technologies such as drones, sensors, and cameras (Longo, 2017). Furthermore, borders also serve as battlegrounds for ideologies and identities, influencing how countries perceive themselves within the global constellation. In this context, borders are not merely physical boundaries, but also spaces where political identities are tested and formed (Longo, 2017; Kunkunrat et al., 2026).

Furthermore, the concepts of cosmopolitanism and leadership demonstrate that borders also serve as intersections between diverse cultures and international interests. Cosmopolitanism emphasizes the view that nations and individuals are globally connected, transcending national boundaries. In this regard, borders serve as tools for powerful nations to expand their influence, whether through political, economic, or military power (Longo, 2017). Furthermore, the heterogeneity of authority in border areas indicates that management of these areas involves various actors from the central to local government levels, with communities playing an integral role in the oversight and management process. Local communities possess a deep understanding of the social and

cultural conditions surrounding the border, which can enhance the effectiveness of management policies (Longo, 2017).

However, strict border management can also raise human rights issues. Strict border policies risk violating individual rights, particularly for vulnerable groups such as immigrants and refugees. Longo (2017) asserts that these policies can exacerbate injustice by widening existing social gaps between marginalized groups. Therefore, it is crucial to adopt an approach that focuses not only on physical border security but also considers the social, cultural, and human rights dimensions to create a more equitable balance in the region.

In this regard, nationalism can play a crucial role in fostering solidarity and a sense of community among communities, both within a country and along the border. Nationalism itself has two main forms that can play a role in strengthening a nation's collective identity: civic nationalism and cultural nationalism. These two types of nationalism offer different approaches to strengthening social bonds and building a sense of togetherness, although both aim to create unity within a heterogeneous nation.

Civic nationalism emphasizes political commitment and shared values that bind individuals to a nation or state, without prioritizing heredity or origin. In this regard, nationalism is seen not merely as a biological or hereditary identity, but rather as a recognition of loyalty and participation in the broader political system. Civic nationalism illustrates how emotional and symbolic bonds can be used to build a strong sense of community, strengthen relationships between individuals, and create lasting closeness, despite differences in social, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds (Simonsen & Bonikowski, 2020).

On the other hand, cultural nationalism highlights the importance of developing and preserving a nation's cultural identity, values, language, and traditions. This concept differs from civic nationalism, which prioritizes loyalty to the state, as cultural nationalism emphasizes the recognition of a community's cultural heritage and uniqueness. As Hutchinson (Eric Taylor Woods, 2016) points out, cultural nationalism plays a crucial role in creating solidarity and a sense of togetherness, especially among individuals with similar cultural backgrounds. Thus, cultural nationalism not only aims to strengthen group identity but also serves as a tool for maintaining cultural authenticity in the face of increasingly rapid modernization.

Holistic border policy management requires policies that integrate these various aspects, from maintaining sovereignty and protecting human rights to developing better international relations. This is not only crucial for maintaining national security and stability but also for strengthening a sense of nationhood and national identity among border communities.

This article is motivated by a research gap regarding the role of state border politics in maintaining nationalism. Previous studies, such as those conducted by Sani (2023), show that border policy phenomena are often influenced by a lack of government attention to the needs of communities in border areas. Public dissatisfaction in these areas arises from limited investment in infrastructure, education, and public services, which creates social and economic disparities. To strengthen nationalism, it is crucial for the government to increase attention and investment, and involve communities in planning and decision-making, thereby creating a stronger relationship between the community and the state.

Furthermore, research by Irwansyah (2017) reveals that the government's lack of attention to communities in the Indonesia-Malaysia border areas, particularly in Kalimantan, creates complex social dynamics. Border communities often feel neglected because government policies focus more on infrastructure development in the central government. This situation is exacerbated by limited access to basic services, and cross-border interactions with Malaysia, which introduce cultural and economic influences, contribute to feelings of alienation from Indonesian national identity. Land disputes and smuggling issues further exacerbate ethnic and social tensions, eroding loyalty to Indonesia.

In Ketungau Hulu District, West Kalimantan, this situation is clearly evident in the community's dependence on facilities provided by Malaysia. The Indonesian government's inability to provide basic infrastructure and services has led to economic dependence, which has weakened the community's sense of nationalism. This research highlights the importance of border politics in reducing this dependence and strengthening nationalism among border communities. Therefore, this study aims to fill the gap in understanding the relationship between border politics and nationalism, specifically in Ketungau Hulu, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan.

Overall, border politics in Ketungau Hulu serves not only as a tool for regulating interstate relations but also as a means to strengthen nationalism in border communities. This research is important for highlighting how effective border policies can reduce dependence on neighboring countries and strengthen nationalism, which in turn supports the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

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## METHOD

The research method used in this article adopts a qualitative approach with a descriptive design. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to delve deeper into social phenomena, particularly those related to state border politics, which serve to maintain community nationalism in Ketungau Hulu District, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan. A qualitative research design is considered appropriate because it allows researchers to explain and understand the meaning behind events or phenomena that occur, as well as describe the emerging social dynamics. This study aims to develop a new concept regarding state border politics in an effort to maintain community nationalism, with a focus on how these policies are implemented in border areas.

The research data is divided into two main categories: primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through direct field observations, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs) with purposively selected informants. These informants included the Head of the National Border Management Agency (BNPP), the Commander of the 1205 Sintang Military District (Dandim), the Regent of Sintang, the Speaker of the Sintang Regency Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), and community leaders with in-depth knowledge of the living conditions of border communities. Secondary data was collected through documentation studies, including policies and reports from the local government, as well as statistical data related to the social and economic conditions of the community in Ketungau Hulu District.

Data collection techniques in this article included interviews, observations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and documentation analysis. Interviews were conducted with informants with direct knowledge of national border politics and community nationalism. Observations were made of activities carried out by the National Agency for Border Control (BNPP), the Regional Development Planning Agency (BPPD) of West Kalimantan Province, and the local government in maintaining the border and strengthening nationalism in the community. Documentation analysis aimed to understand the policies implemented and the results of their implementation in the field.

In this article, the researcher served as the primary instrument in data collection and analysis. He was directly involved with the research subjects, interacted with informants, and recorded data intensively to produce relevant and accurate findings. Data analysis was conducted systematically through several stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. This process was carried out continuously to ensure that the data obtained provided a clear and accurate picture of the influence of border politics on community nationalism. All research procedures, from data collection to analysis, are carried out with attention to the validity and credibility of the data through triangulation, namely by comparing data from various reliable sources to increase the accuracy of research findings.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sintang Regency is a level II autonomous region located in West Kalimantan Province, with an area of 21,638.00 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 445,255. The regency comprises 14 sub-districts, 16 urban villages, and 361 villages, reflecting its cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. Sintang District, as the regency capital, has the highest population density and serves as the economic and administrative center. Meanwhile, Ambalau District has the largest area, covering 28.52% of the regency's total area.

Geographically, Sintang Regency is dominated by hills, with 63.57% of its territory being hilly. In addition to its diverse landscape, Sintang Regency shares a direct border with Sarawak, Malaysia, making it a strategic location for trade relations between Indonesia and Malaysia. Sintang Regency's location along the equator provides a distinctive tropical climate, which influences the lifestyle and economy of the local community.

The population situation in Sintang Regency reflects complex social dynamics, with Sintang District serving as the economic and administrative center. With over 83,000 residents, Sintang District has more comprehensive public facilities than other districts. The majority of Sintang Regency's population relies on agriculture and plantations for its livelihood, and its vast area offers significant potential for further development of these sectors.

Social conditions in Sintang Regency demonstrate inequities in the distribution of health and education facilities. While numerous health facilities, such as integrated health posts (Posyandu) and community health centers (Puskesmas), facilitate access to basic services, the limited number of hospitals and health infrastructure in remote areas remains a significant challenge. Furthermore, despite relatively adequate educational facilities, limitations at the secondary level, such as in Ambalau District with only one high school, hinder access to education for some.

Socioeconomic conditions in Sintang Regency are heavily dependent on the agricultural sector, particularly rubber and oil palm plantations, which are the primary source of livelihood for the majority of the population. However, several villages in the region struggle to meet their food needs due to low agricultural yields. Limited market access also forces communities to sell their produce to Malaysia, demonstrating dependence on external markets and the importance of developing better domestic economic infrastructure.

Ketungau Hulu District, located in the western part of Sintang Regency, shares a direct border with Malaysia and covers an area of 2,138.20 km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for approximately 9.88% of Sintang Regency's total area. This region serves as a strategic border area, with numerous villages located along the border, enriching the social, economic, and cultural dynamics between Indonesia and Malaysia. This district faces challenges in terms of equitable development, particularly related to infrastructure and natural resource management.

The population of Ketungau Hulu District shows significant growth in 2024. Although the population remains relatively small, this growth has a significant impact on the need for public services, such as education, health, and infrastructure. This significant change presents a challenge for the government in planning appropriate social policies to ensure equity and community welfare..

The socioeconomic conditions of Ketungau Hulu District focus on the agricultural sector as the primary source of livelihood for the community. Although many primary education facilities are available, limited secondary education facilities and a shortage of qualified teachers hamper educational development in the region. Similarly, in the health sector, available facilities are severely limited, with only one inpatient community health center capable of providing more comprehensive services. Limitations in these sectors pose significant challenges to equitable quality of life for the community.

The political situation in Ketungau Hulu District reflects evolving political dynamics, with the NasDem Party dominating, securing the most votes in the 2020 Election. Nevertheless, the Hanura Party's ambition to increase its seat count in the Ketungau electoral district indicates intense political competition, reflecting the importance of strengthening organizational structures and mobilizing voters in this region. This significant political development underscores the importance of political strategies tailored to the characteristics of voters in border areas.

Overall, both Sintang Regency and Ketungau Hulu District face significant challenges related to the equitable distribution of facilities and infrastructure development, particularly in remote and border areas. Dependence on the agricultural sector and limited access to markets and public services are major obstacles to improving community welfare. Therefore, more strategic development planning and equitable distribution of services are needed to improve the quality of life for people in this area.

Ketungau Hulu District, located on the Indonesia-Malaysia border, faces significant challenges in managing security and regional development. In particular, poor infrastructure, such as unserviceable and impassable roads, is a major obstacle to community mobility and access to basic services like education and healthcare. Despite government efforts to improve these conditions, oversight of border activities, such as smuggling and illegal trade, remains limited. Security posts and the use of surveillance technology such as the Alvin Quist system have been implemented, but given the vastness of the border area and limited personnel, oversight remains suboptimal. This demonstrates that the constraints in border management are not only physical but also administrative, further worsening security and social conditions in the area.

In addition to border management issues, Ketungau Hulu District also faces complex citizenship and identity dynamics. Many residents of this border region lack official identity documents, such as a national ID card (KTP), due to unregistered inter-national marriages. This leads to uncertainty about their citizenship status, which hinders their access to public services. Despite the strong ties many have with Malaysia through trade and family, nationalism toward Indonesia remains strong. While residents of this border region have adopted some aspects of the Malaysian lifestyle, they still demonstrate a sense of love and loyalty to Indonesia, reflected in their participation in national events such as Independence Day commemorations and government programs held at the border.

However, economic dependence on Malaysia remains a significant issue. Cross-border trade, which connects the people of Ketungau Hulu to the Malaysian market, is often more profitable than the domestic Indonesian market. This is due to lower prices and easier access to the Malaysian market. Meanwhile, Indonesian infrastructure, particularly in border areas, remains very limited. Border communities prefer to purchase basic goods such as rice, LPG, and electronics from Malaysia due to better availability and prices. This economic dependence demonstrates the weak connectivity of Indonesia's domestic market, creating economic inequality in border areas and furthering community dependence on neighboring countries.

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Amidst this economic dependence, the dynamics of border authorities in Ketungau Hulu District also demonstrate a mismatch between central government policies and local community needs. The Sintang Regency government, through the Regional Border Agency (BPPD), plays a crucial coordinating role, but delays in the development of border infrastructure, such as the State Border Crossing Post (PLBN), further exacerbate development inequality. Promised development projects, such as the parallel road with Malaysia and the Sungai Kelik border crossing, remain hampered by bureaucracy and budget uncertainty from the central government. Furthermore, local communities often feel excluded from decision-making related to development on the border, even though they are more familiar with conditions and needs on the ground.

Equally important, human rights and global justice are also significant issues for border communities in Ketungau Hulu. Access to basic services such as education and healthcare is severely limited due to poor infrastructure and a shortage of teachers and medical personnel. These limitations exacerbate the disparity between border communities and those in the central region, who have easier access to better facilities. Another issue is poor water quality, which impacts public health. While there have been no major human rights violations, the gap in access to basic services creates deeply concerning inequalities. Therefore, while border communities still maintain a sense of nationalism toward Indonesia, significant challenges remain in terms of development, social welfare, and human rights protection, with the hope that the government will pay greater attention to their plight in the future.

The border of Ketungau Hulu District, located on the Indonesia-Malaysia dividing line, plays a key role in maintaining Indonesia's sovereignty. The sovereignty and political security of this region depend heavily on effective oversight of cross-border activities. As a border region, Ketungau Hulu faces significant challenges related to unofficial routes or "rat lines" used by residents to cross the border. Although the government has attempted to strengthen oversight by using surveillance technologies such as the Alvin Quist system and border markers, inadequate infrastructure and limited oversight pose significant obstacles to combating illegal activities such as human trafficking and smuggling. Within Longo's (2017) theoretical framework, which states that borders serve as a means of control, strengthening infrastructure and implementing more sophisticated technology are crucial steps to ensure state sovereignty is maintained in this border region. Effective oversight requires the involvement of multiple actors, including the central and regional governments, and local communities, to reduce gaps in border security management.

Beyond sovereignty, the dimensions of citizenship and political identity of communities in the Ketungau Hulu border region face quite complex dynamics. Border communities are often trapped in administrative difficulties, such as low levels of population document ownership and inability to access state administrative services. This is further complicated by the practice of inter-national marriages and unclear citizenship status, which demonstrate the plurality of identities that emerge from intense interaction with neighboring Malaysia. Referring to Migdal's theory (2004), these conditions demonstrate how borders are not merely physical dividers but also spaces where political identities are tested. People who prefer to adopt a Malaysian identity through documents such as Malaysian birth certificates reflect their attachment to their neighboring country, even as they maintain their Indonesian national identity through participation in national activities such as independence ceremonies. Therefore, citizenship management in this border region requires clearer and more adequate policies to address the dynamics of multiple identities that exist among border communities.

Furthermore, the dimensions of cosmopolitanism and political leadership in the Ketungau Hulu border region also shape the region's social and economic dynamics. Cross-border trade activities connecting Indonesia and Malaysia reflect strong economic dependence on neighboring countries, with communities preferring to use "rat routes" to sell agricultural products to Malaysia and purchase basic necessities. According to Longo (2017), the border functions as a complex political institution involving control and power. Cosmopolitanism at this border is evident in the intense social interactions between the people of Ketungau Hulu and Malaysia, where cultural, linguistic, and customary boundaries begin to blur. The cultural plurality emerging from this interaction enriches community social life, but also creates ambiguities about national identity and citizenship. Political leadership in this region faces significant challenges in managing interstate relations, given the imbalance in domestic infrastructure development that hinders connectivity between national markets and border areas.

Furthermore, an analysis of the heterogeneity of political authority in the Ketungau Hulu border region highlights challenges in natural resource management and community relations involving multiple actors. The local government, through the Regional Border Management Agency (BPPD), plays a crucial role in coordinating border policies, but is often limited in its ability to implement them directly. Delays in infrastructure development, such as the National Border Post (PLBN), promised by the central government, reflect the mismatch between planning and implementation faced in border management. According to Migdal (2004), border management requires close coordination between various levels of government. This creates an imbalance in border

management, where communities feel neglected due to delays in policy implementation and a lack of attention from the central government to their needs.

In the context of human rights and global justice, communities in Ketungau Hulu also face unequal access to basic services such as education, health care, and clean water. Poor infrastructure and limited medical and teaching staff exacerbate the living conditions of border communities. This aligns with Longo's (2017) argument that restrictive border policies and a lack of attention to basic community rights can widen inequalities. For example, many residents must travel to Malaysia for better healthcare due to limited facilities in their region. Therefore, the state needs to ensure the fulfillment of this basic right as part of its obligation to promote prosperity for all citizens, including those living in border areas.

Finally, an analysis of border politics in the context of nationalism in Ketungau Hulu demonstrates how the concept of nationalism persists despite the challenges faced by the community at the border. Although many residents are influenced by Malaysia's economy and culture, they maintain a sense of Indonesian nationalism through participation in national activities and appreciation of Indonesian cultural identity. Nationalism in this region develops in the form of citizenship, ethnicity, and culture, as explained by Simonsen & Bonikowski (2020) and Hutchinson (2016), who emphasize the importance of cultural identity as a binding element in strengthening nationalism. Although the border presents challenges in terms of political and economic control, the nationalism of border communities remains strong through a deep historical and cultural awareness of their identity as part of Indonesia.

This article on border politics in Ketungau Hulu District, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan, explores the political dimensions influencing nationalism in border communities. Some of the dimensions identified include sovereignty and security, citizenship and identity, cosmopolitanism and leadership, and human rights and global justice. Cross-border interactions with Malaysia and infrastructure disparities in the region exacerbate the social and economic conditions of the community. Economic dependence on neighboring countries and lack of access to basic services exacerbate the gap between border areas and the central region. Therefore, it is crucial to develop more holistic policies that encompass dimensions of social and economic justice as a response to these inequalities.

The dimensions of social and economic justice emerge as complementary measures to address significant social and economic disparities in the border region. Communities in Ketungau Hulu District face inequities in access to education, health care, and clean water, stemming from limited infrastructure. Furthermore, cross-border economic interactions with Malaysia create tensions between economic ties to neighboring countries and Indonesian nationalism. Policies that focus too much on security and sovereignty without addressing social and economic inequalities actually worsen the community's situation. Therefore, the dimensions of social and economic justice must be part of more inclusive policies to ensure the fulfillment of basic community rights and strengthen nationalism.

Other dimensions of border politics also influence the formation of nationalism, such as the dimensions of citizenship and identity, which are often fragmented due to administrative difficulties, and the dimension of cosmopolitanism, which demonstrates the close ties between border communities and Malaysia. Limited administrative facilities and access to public services in border regions exacerbate existing inequalities. On the other hand, effective leadership at the border must accommodate social and economic complexities and strengthen national solidarity. Furthermore, poor coordination between the central government, regional governments, and local communities exacerbates inequality, necessitating more comprehensive policies that involve the active participation of local communities in border management.

This dimension of social and economic justice is crucial for creating a balance between the existing political dimensions of the border. Policies that favor border communities by ensuring equal access to basic services and economic opportunities will strengthen a sense of justice among the community. This will strengthen nationalism and social solidarity, and encourage the creation of more inclusive border policies, particularly in Ketungau Hulu District, which faces unique challenges in terms of infrastructure, basic services, and cross-border interactions.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this article shows that the political dimensions of the border, including sovereignty and security, citizenship and identity, cosmopolitanism and leadership, heterogeneity of authority, and human rights and global justice, have a significant impact on the social, economic, and political lives of the people of Ketungau Hulu District, Sintang Regency. The social and economic inequalities that exist in this region, largely caused by limited infrastructure and existing policies, further worsen the living conditions of the border community. Nevertheless, the people of Ketungau Hulu maintain a strong sense of nationalism despite being

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hampered by limited access to basic services such as education, health, and clean water. Economic dependence on neighboring Malaysia further exacerbates the inequality between the border region and the center, ultimately affecting the sense of justice and solidarity among the community. The dimensions of social and economic justice are highly relevant in this context, as existing inequalities need to be addressed through more inclusive and equitable border management. Therefore, a more holistic and comprehensive policy is needed to create a balance between political and social aspects, thereby reducing inequality and strengthening the sense of justice and national identity in the border region. With an approach that focuses more on fulfilling the basic rights of border communities, it is hoped that more equitable social justice can be created and solidarity between citizens can be strengthened.

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